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14 May 1984

MEMORANDUM FOR: DDI Rep/Office of Legislative Liaison  
7B02 HQS

FROM: Chief, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Bangladesh Branch  
South Asia Division, NESA

SUBJECT: Memorandum for the Record Regarding  
Briefing of Mr. Kevin Nealer on 11 May 1984

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1. Mr. Nealer is a staff member of the Senate Democratic Policy Committee who was here on behalf of Sen. Byrd. [redacted] of PAB/SO/NESA presented a briefing on the current state of the Afghan war. [redacted]

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2. We addressed the position of Soviet forces in Afghanistan in terms of size, composition, salient characteristics, and operations. Similar topics were treated regarding the Afghan army but our focus was on the problems of the Afghans. We discussed the various insurgent groups, their problems, and prospects. [redacted] provided an overview of the current Soviet campaign in the Panjsher Valley, and treated the new, distinctive elements of this operation in contrast to previous campaigns. [redacted]

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3. In response to Mr. Nealer's questions, we identified the key events which would signal a major escalation or change in Soviet policy re the conduct of the war. We told Mr. Nealer we could not respnd to his question regarding the source of Afghan insurgents' beyond pointing out that they did in fact capture weapons from both Soviet and Afghan army units. [redacted]

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